

VERY PERSONAL GENERIC NAMES (*NOMINA PERPROPRIA*): A CONTRIBUTION TO WHIMSICAL BOTANY

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Botanists familiar with the writings of Linnaeus (1938) or Stearn (1966) and with the Nomenclatural Code (Stafleu et al., 1978) know that generic names may be formed in a variety of ways. They may commemorate persons or places, may be descriptive (provided they are not technical morphological terms), may be anagrams, or "may even be composed in an absolutely arbitrary manner" (ICBN, Article 20). Thus, there is ample scope for botanists to use their imaginations in devising new generic names.

Botanists frequently form a generic name in commemoration of a man or a woman, often a notable botanist or plant collector, sometimes a botanical illustrator or a patron of botany, and occasionally a person whose connection with botany is tenuous or unclear, although the Code (Recommendation 20A, h) recommends against the latter course. Such dedicatory names are most commonly formed by adding to the person's surname a grammatically appropriate ending (e.g. *Turnera*, *Linnaea*). Sometimes a single botanist is commemorated more than once by different authors, who combine various prefixes and suffixes with the surname (e.g. *Brittonia*, *Brittonella*, *Brittonastrum*, *Neobrittonia*). Additional names may be formed by combining the person's surname with the root of a generic name (e.g. *Merrillioanax*, *Lauromerrillia*) or more commonly with a descriptive term (*Mortonia*, *Mortoni dendron*).

Here I am concerned with dedicatory generic names that are formed by combining a person's given name and surname thereby *more specifically* honoring the particular individual than if only his or her surname were used. For example, some might know or be able to surmise who is honored by the name *Johnstonella* Brandegee but many of us would have to do some library research to find out. On the other hand, the honorees of the names *Ivanjohnstonia* Kazmi and *Marshalljohnstonia* Henrickson are evident. They specifically honor a given person with a "very personal" generic name.

I became interested in this byway after recently publishing the generic name *Billieturnera* for a distinctive genus of Malvaceae, honoring a distinctive botanist. Some of my colleagues commented good-naturedly (I trust) on my publishing such a polysyllabic name. Because the Code (Recommendation 20A, c) recommends against making names "that are very long or difficult to pronounce in Latin," I investigated the history of such *nomina*

perpropria and present a list of them. It is not exhaustive, since there undoubtedly are names I have overlooked, and there certainly are some *nomina perpropria* that are more or less cryptic in their derivation (as will be discussed later) and are not easily recognized as such. (In the following list, asterisks indicate individuals who are still living.)

- ABDULMAJIDIA Whitm., Kew Bull. 29: 207. 1974. LECYTHIDACEAE, honoring Tuan Haji Abdul Majid bin Haji Mohammed Shahid, forester.
- ACSMITHIA Hoogl., (cited by Airy Shaw, 1966, but I cannot discover that it has been otherwise published). CUNONIACEAE, honoring Albert Charles Smith, 1906-*, botanist.
- ALBERTOKUNTZEA Kuntze, Revis. Gen. Pl. 2: 550. 1891. PHYTOLACACEAE, honoring Albert Kuntze, Jr., banker.
- ALEXGEORGIA Carlq., Austral. J. Bot. 24: 282. 1976. RESTIONACEAE, honoring Alex S. George, botanist.
- ALLANBLACKIA Oliver in Bentham & Hooker, Gen. Pl. 1: 980. 1867. GUTTIFERAE, honoring Allan A. Black, 1832–1965.
- ALLENROLFEA Kuntze, Revis. Gen. Pl. 2: 545. 1891. CHENOPODIACEAE, honoring Robert Allen Rolfe, 1855–1921, botanist.
- AMOLINIA King & Robinson, Phytologia 24: 265. 1972. COMPOSITAE, presumably honoring Antonio Molina, 1926-*, botanist.
- ARNOLDOSCHULTZEA Mildbr., Wiss. Erg. Deut. Zentr.-Afr. Exped. Bot. 1910–11, 2: 61. 1922. SAPOTACEAE, honoring Arnold Schultze, plant collector.
- BARKERWEBBIA Becc. in Martelli, Webbia 1: 281. 1905. PALMAE, honoring Philip Barker Webb, 1793–1854, botanist.
- BILLIETURNERA Fryx. Sida 9: 195. 1982. MALVACEAE, honoring Billie Lee Turner, 1925-*, botanist.
- BURTTDAVYA Hoyle in Hooker, Icon. Pl. 34: t. 3318. 1936. RUBIACEAE, honoring Joseph Burtt Davy, 1870–1940, botanist.
- CAPTAINCOOKIA Hallé, Adansonia 13: 197. 1973. RUBIACEAE, honoring Capt. James Cook, 1728–1779, explorer.
- CARLOMOHRIA E. Greene, Erythea 1: 246. 1893. STYRACACEAE, honoring Charles Theodore Mohr, 1824–1901, botanist.
- CARLOSTEPHANIA Bubani, Fl. Pyren. 2: 658. 1900. ONAGRACEAE, honoring Charles Estienne (latinized to Carlos Stephanus), 1504–1564, physician.
- CARLOWRIGHTIA A. Gray, Proc. Amer. Acad. Arts 13: 364. 1878. ACANTHACEAE, honoring Charles Wright, 1811–1885, plant collector.
- CAROLOFRITSCHIA Engler, Bot. Jahrb. Syst. 26: 362. 1899. GESNERIACEAE, honoring Karl F. Fritsch, 1864–1934, botanist.
- CAROLI-GMELINA P. Gaertner et al., Oekon. Fl. Wetterav. 2: 419. 1800. CRUCIFERAE, honoring Carl Christian Gmelin, 1762–1837, botanist.
- CECARRIA Barlow, Brittonia 25: 34. 1973. LORANTHACEAE, honoring Cedric Erroll Carr, 1892–1936, plant collector.

- CYRILWHITEA Ising, *Trans. Roy. Soc. S. Austral.* 88: 61. 1964. CHENOPODIACEAE, honoring Cyril Tenison White, 1890–1950, botanist.
- DONNELLSMITHIA Coulter & Rose ex Coulter, *Bot. Gaz.* 15: 15. 1890. UMBELLIFERAE, honoring John Donnell Smith, 1829–1928, botanist.
- EDBAKERIA Viguier, *Notul. Syst.* 13: 364. 1949. LEGUMINOSAE, presumably honoring Edmund Gilbert Baker, 1864–1949, botanist.
- EDITHCOLEA N. E. Br., *Kew Bull.* 1895: 220. 1895. ASCLEPIADACEAE, honoring Edith Cole, plant collector.
- EDUARDOREGELIA Popov, *Ind. Sem. Hort. Bot. Almaat. Acad. Sci.* no. 3. 1936; ex Buxbaum, *Bot. Archiv* 38: 389. 1937. LILIACEAE, honoring Eduard August von Regel, 1815–1892, botanist.
- ELIDURANDIA Buckley, *Proc. Amer. Acad. Sci. Philad.* 1861: 450. 1862. MALVACEAE, honoring Elias Magloire Durand, 1794–1873, botanist.
- ELMERRILLIA Dandy, *Kew Bull.* 1927: 261. 1927. MAGNOLIACEAE, honoring Elmer Drew Merrill, 1876–1956, botanist.
- ENRIQUEBELTRANIA Rzed., *Bol. Soc. Bot. Méx.* 38: 75. 1979. EUPHORBIAEAE, honoring Enrique Beltrán, 1903-*, botanist.
- ERNESTIMEYERA Kuntze in Post & Kuntze, *Lexic. Gen. Phan.* 205. 1903. RUBIACEAE, honoring Ernst Heinrich Friedrich Meyer, 1791–1858.
- HARLANLEWISIA Epling, *Amer. J. Bot.* 42: 436. 1955. LABIATAE, honoring Frank Harlan Lewis, 1919-*, botanist.
- HARRYSMITHIA H. Wolff, *Acta Horti Gothob.* 2: 310. 1926. UMBELLIFERAE, presumably honoring Karl August Harold ("Harry") Smith, 1889-?
- HELIABRAVOA Backeb., *Cact. Succ. J. Gr. Brit.* 18: 23. 1956. CACTACEAE, honoring Helia Bravo Hollis, 1903-*, botanist.
- HENRIBAILLONIA Kuntze, *Revis. Gen. Pl.* 2: 606. 1891. EUPHORBIAEAE, honoring Henri Baillon, 1827–1895, botanist.
- IFDREGIA Steudel, *Nomencl. Bot. ed. ii.* 1: 801. 1840. UMBELLIFERAE, honoring Johann Franz Drège, 1794–1881, plant collector.
- IRVINGBAILEYA Howard, *Brittonia* 5: 50. 1943. ICACINACEAE, honoring Irving Widmer Bailey, 1884–1967, botanist.
- ISIDROGALVIA Ruiz & Pavón, *Fl. Peru* 3: 69. *t.* 302. 1802. LILIACEAE, honoring Isidorus Galvéz, illustrator.
- IVANJOHNSTONIA Kazmi, *Sultania* 1: 1. 1975. BORAGINACEAE, honoring Ivan Murray Johnston, 1898–1960, botanist.
- JACQUESHUBERIA Ducke, *Arch. Jard. Bot. Rio de Janeiro* 3: 118. 1922. LEGUMINOSAE, honoring Jacques E. Huber, 1867–1914.
- JAMESBRITTENIA Kuntze, *Revis. Gen. Pl.* 2: 461. 1891. SCROPHULARIACEAE, honoring James Britten, 1846–1924, botanist.
- JARANDERSONIA Kosterm., *Reinwardtia* 5: 319. 1960. TILIACEAE, honoring J. A. R. Anderson, forester.
- JOANNEGRIA Chiov., *Ann. Bot. (Rome)* 11: 231. 1913. GRAMINEAE, honoring Giovanni Negri, 1877–1960.

- JOHANNESTEIJSMANNIA H. Moore, *Principes* 5: 116. 1961. PALMAE, honoring Johannes Elias Teysmann, 1809–1882, botanist.
- JUTTADINTERIA Schwantes, *Z. Sukkulentenk.* 2: 182. 1926. MORACEAE, honoring Helena Jutta Dinter, wife of Moritz Kurt Dinter, botanist.
- KINGDON-WARDIA Marquand, *J. Linn. Soc., Bot.* 48: 207. 1929. GENTI-ANACEAE, honoring Francis Kingdon Ward, 1885–1958, plant collector.
- LENBRASSIA Gillett, *J. Arnold Arbor.* 55: 431. 1974. GESNERIACEAE, honoring Leonard John Brass, 1900-?, plant collector.
- MARSHALLFIELDIA Macbride, *Publ. Field Mus. Nat. Hist., Bot. Ser.* 4: 175. 1929. MELASTOMATAACEAE, honoring *Capt.* Marshall Field (Marshall Field III), 1893–1956, merchant and philanthropist.
- MARSHALLJOHNSTONIA Henrickson, *Syst. Bot.* 1: 169. 1976. COMPOSITAE, honoring Marshall Conring Johnston, 1930-*, botanist.
- MAXBURRETIA Furtado, *Gard. Bull. Straits Settlem.* 11: 240. 1941. PALMAE, honoring Carl Ewald Maximilian Burret, 1883–1964.
- NEBROWNIA Kuntze, *Revis. Gen. Pl.* 2: 742. 1891. ARACEAE, honoring Nicholas Edward Brown, 1849–1934, botanist.
- NORMANBOKEA Kladiwa & F. Buxb. in Krainz, *Kakteen*, lief. 40–41, *Gen.* 108b. 1969. CACTACEAE, honoring Norman Hill Boke, 1913-*, botanist.
- OAKES-AMESIA Schweinfurth & Allen, *Bot. Mus. Leafl.* 13: 133. 1948. ORCHIDACEAE, honoring Oakes Ames, 1874–1950, botanist.
- OTTOSCHMIDTIA Urban, *Repert. Spec. Nov. Regni Veg.* 20: 312. 1924. RUBIACEAE, honoring Otto Schmidt, 1900–1956.
- OTTOSCHULZIA Urban, *Symb. Antill.* 7: 272. 1912. ICACINACEAE, honoring Otto Eugene Schulz, 1874–1936, botanist.
- OTTOSONDERIA Bolus, *Notes Mesembryanthemum*, pt. 3, 292. 1958. AIZO-ACEAE, honoring Otto Wilhelm Sonder, 1812–1881, botanist.
- PALMERVANDENBROECKIA Gibbs, *Arfak Mts.* 162. 1917. ARALIACEAE, honoring Ch. L. J. Palmer van den Broeck, government official (Resident of Ternate).
- PAULADOLPHIA Börner, *Abh. Naturwiss. Vereine Bremen* 21: 277. 1913. POLYGONACEAE, honoring Adolf Paul, ?-1910.
- PAULOMAGNUSIA Kuntze, *Revis. Gen. Pl.* 2: 702. 1891. IRIDACEAE, honoring Paul Wilhelm Magnus, 1844–1914.
- PAULO-WILHELMIA Hochst. *Flora* 27: 17. 1844. ACANTHACEAE, honoring Freidrich Paul Wilhelm.
- PETERAVENIA King & Robinson, *Phytologia* 21: 394. 1971. COMPOSITAE, honoring Peter Hamilton Raven, 1936-*, botanist.
- PLARODRIGOA Looser, *Revista Sudamer. Bot.* 2: 160. 1935. MALVACEAE, honoring América del Pilar Rodrigo Trigo, botanist.
- RADYERA Bullock, *Kew Bull.* 1956: 454. 1957. MALVACEAE, honoring Robert Allen Dyer, 1900-*, botanist.

- RAHOWARDIANA D'Arcy, *Ann. Missouri Bot. Gard.* 60: 671. 1973. SOLANACEAE, honoring Richard Alden Howard, 1917-*, botanist.
- RAULINOREITZIA King & Robinson, *Phytologia* 22: 113. 1971. COMPOSITAE, honoring Raulino Reitz, 1919-*, botanist.
- REEDROLLINSIA Walker, *Rhodora* 73: 461. 1971. ANNONACEAE, honoring Reed Clark Rollins, 1911-*, botanist.
- ROMANSCHULZIA O. Schulz, *Engl. Pflanzenr., Crucif.-Sisymb.* 144. 1924; *Bot. Jahrb. Syst.* 64: 99. 1933. CRUCIFERAE, honoring Roman Schulz, 1873–1926.
- ROYSTONEA Cook, *Science*, ser. ii, 12: 479. 1900. PALMAE, honoring *General* Roy Stone, 1835–1905, U.S. Army Engineer.
- SEBASTIANO-SCHAUERIA Nees, *Mart. Fl. Bras.* 9: 158. 1847. ACANTHACEAE, honoring Sebastian Schauer, botanist.
- SINOWILSONIA Hemsley in Hooker, *Icon. Pl. t.* 2817. 1906. HAMAMELIDACEAE, honoring Ernest Henry "Chinese" Wilson, 1876–1930, plant collector and horticulturist.
- SIRHOOKERA Kuntze, *Revis. Gen. Pl.* 2: 681. 1891. ORCHIDACEAE, honoring Sir Joseph Dalton Hooker, 1817–1911, botanist.
- SIRMUELLERA Kuntze, *Revis. Gen. Pl.* 2: 581. 1891. PROTEACEAE, presumably honoring Sir Ferdinand Jacob Heinrich ("Baron") von Mueller, 1825–1896, botanist.
- SVENHEDINIA Urban, *Repert. Spec. Nov. Regi Veg.* 24:3. 1927. MAGNOLIACEAE, honoring Sven Anders Hedin, 1865–1952, explorer.
- THOMANDERSIA Baillon, *Hist. Pl.* 11: 456. 1891. ACANTHACEAE, honoring (?) Thomas Anderson, 1832–1870.
- WILLRUSSELLIA A. Chevalier, *Bull. Soc. Bot. France* 84: 503. 1938. LILIACEAE, honoring William Russell, 1860–1946, botanist.
- WILLWEBERA Löve & Löve, *Lagascalia* 4: 9. 1974. CARYOPHYLLACEAE, honoring William A. Weber, 1918-*, botanist.

FORMATION OF NAMES

The majority of these names are formed in a straightforward manner by combining the given name and the surname, with or without a hyphen or connecting vowel, and providing a suitable ending (e.g. *Edithcolea*, *Roystonea*). In other cases the given name is first latinized before making the combination (e.g. *Carolofritschia*, *Carlostephania*, *Joannegria*).

An interesting variation on this method is to use the person's title in lieu of the given name, for example *Captaincookia*, which perhaps more readily identifies the honoree than had his given name James been used. The names *Sirhookera* and *Sirmuelleria* however, are ambiguous. The former name could honor Sir William Jackson Hooker, the father, or Sir Joseph Dalton Hooker, the son. Fortunately, the author of the name stated explicitly that the name honors Sir Joseph. In the case of *Sirmuelleria*, one can only

presume that this name was intended to honor Baron F. von Mueller (Sir Ferdinand in 1879), since the author made no clear dedication.

In several cases an individual's second given name (middle name) is combined with the surname to form the generic name. Examples are: *Allenrolfea*, *Barkerwebbia*, *Burttdavya*, *Donnellsmithia*, *Harlanlewisia*, *Harrismithia*, *Juttadinteria*, *Kingdon-Wardia*, and *Maxburretia*. These names generally result from the individual's preference of the second over the first name, but in some cases it is unclear if the name was formed as just described (clearly the case for *Allenrolfea*, *Harlanlewisia*, *Harrismithia*, *Juttadintera* and *Maxburretia*) or if it was formed from a hyphenated surname.

Some names are formed by ellipsis. The most ingenious example is *Elmerrillia*, which takes advantage of the fact that the last syllable of "Elmer" and the first syllable of "Merrill" are identical. The same method was used to coin *Peteravenia*, dropping only a single letter. Other examples of ellipsis are *Edbakeria* (from Edmund Baker), *Elidurandia* (from Elias Durand), *Lenbrassia* (from Leonard Brass), and *Willwebera* (from William Weber). An especially cryptic example of condensation is *Plarodrigoa* (from América del Pilar Rodrigo T.), which almost amounts to an anagram. An additional form of condensation includes those names that use only initials, rather than the full given name. Examples are: *Acsmithia*, *Ifdregea*, *Jarandersonia*, *Nebrownia*, *Radyera*, and *Rahowardiana*. In the case of *Ifdregea*, the initial J. is first latinized to I. (cf. Article 73.5).

A particularly interesting name, *Sinowilsonia*, is based on the nickname of "Chinese" Wilson. Some of the condensed names of the preceding paragraph (e.g. *Lenbrassia*, *Maxburretia*, *Willwebera*) also may be better regarded as based on nicknames than on ellipsis, although the distinction may be of little moment.

FREQUENCY OF PUBLICATION

The tabulation gives more than 70 *nomina perpropria* from as early as 1800 (*Caroli-Gmelina*) until the present. The names have been published throughout almost two centuries by many authors. Many of them appeared in the 1890's largely as a result of the nomenclatural reforms proposed by Otto Kuntze. The frequency of publication in the present century has been significantly greater (ca 5 or more names per decade) than in the preceding century (only 1 or 2 names per decade). This increased frequency seems reasonable, inasmuch as the simpler dedicatory names (surname only) are progressively utilized so that variant names are needed for distinctiveness. Examples in point are the names *Enriquebeltrania* and *Joannegria*, which were proposed as *nomina nova* to replace *Beltrania* Miranda and *Negria* Chiovenda, respectively, both of which were found to be later homonyms.

LENGTH OF NAMES

The names in the accompanying list vary in length from several with only four syllables to three with seven syllables. One of the former (*Radyera*) may be considered to have either three or four syllables, depending upon pronunciation. "Rad-yér-a" has fewer syllables, but "Ra-dy-er-a" seems preferable, considering the derivation of the name. The modal value for name length is five syllables, though names of six syllables are virtually as numerous.

The length of names may also be measured by their number of letters. The two longest names in the list are *Johannesteijsmannia* and *Palmer-vandenbroeckia*, with 19 and 20 letters respectively; both have seven syllables.

How do these values compare with length of names generally? A random sample of generic names (ten random pages, 263 names) was extracted from Willis' *Dictionary* (Airy Shaw, 1966). The *nomina perpropria* listed here are clearly longer than those of the random sample. The former have a modal value of 5–6 syllables, the latter of 4–5 syllables. The difference of one syllable does not seem to be a major obstacle to the continued use of *nomina perpropria*. The random list, however, produced no names of seven or more syllables and very few (less than 4%) of six syllables. It thus appears that the *nomina perpropria* potentially are of excessive length if not formed judiciously.

The two names noted above that are longest (in number both of letters and of syllables) are quite pronounceable, but are none the less rather daunting to the eye when they appear on the printed page. In fact, I know of only two other generic names that are 20 letters long (*Cuatrecasasiodendron* Standley & Steyermark and *Austrocylindropuntia* Backeberg) and none that are longer, except for the names of certain intergeneric orchid hybrids, where some feel it appropriate to record the parentage of the hybrid in the name itself by simply stringing together two, three, or even four generic names. Thus are achieved such graceless monstrosities as *XPhaiolimatopreptanthes* Hort. and (may I be forgiven for even citing it) *XBrassosopholaeliocattleya* Hort. In comparison with such competition, names like *Johannesteijsmannia* and *Palmer-vandenbroeckia* fairly roll off the tongue.

My point is that extra-long names can be formed by various methods and are not peculiarly associated with the *nomina perpropria* discussed here. It should be noted that, in the list presented, several names may be found with only nine letters and one (*Radyera*) with only seven, these names not being of excessive length by any standard.

Thus, to return to my colleagues' good-natured remarks about so "unwieldy" a new name as *Billieturnera*, I suspect that some of them were merely objecting to the newness of the name and not to its mode of forma-

tion. After all, names that become familiar through usage, such as *Carlwrightia* or *Roystonea*, cease to be remarked upon and are simply used to communicate about plants, which is what botanical names are for.

REFERENCES

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